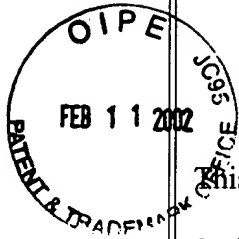


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644/3738



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

This application is a continuation of:

Serial No. 09/271,304 filed March 17, 1999, now
Patent No. 6,319,277 B1, which is a continuation of Serial
No. 08/708,651, filed September 5, 1996, now Patent No.
5,906,639, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 5,575,816,
filed August 12, 1994.

Applicant(s): Rudnick et al.

Examiner: Isabella, David

Serial No.: 09/977,823

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: October 15, 2001

Docket: 498-67 CON 3

Confirmation No. 4655

Dated: January 18, 2002

For: NESTED STENT (AS AMENDED)

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with
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Date January 18, 2002

Signature Barbara Kemmlein

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

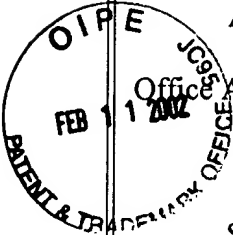
Sir:

In fulfillment of the requirements of candor and good faith set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56,

Applicants submit herewith the following Information Disclosure Statement.

The present application is a continuation of the above noted parent application, the
Examiner's attention is therefore invited to the references cited therein. For convenience of the

Examiner, the references are listed on the attached form PTO 1449. However, pursuant to MPEP §2001.06(b), no separate copies of the references are provided herewith.



As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits, it is believed to be timely filed without a fee.

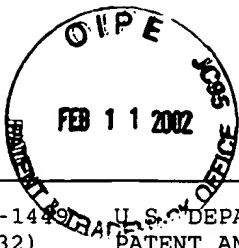
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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this information disclosure statement, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Salvatore J. Abbruzzese
Registration No.: 30,152
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700



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(Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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498-67 CON 3

SERIAL NO.
09/977,823

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT
Rudnick et al.

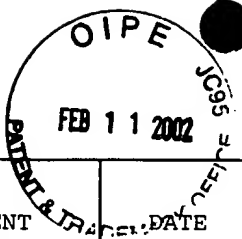
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FILING DATE
October 15, 2001

GROUP
3738

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	3,657,744	04/25/75	Ersek			
	4,580,568	04/08/86	Gianturco			
	4,649,922	03/17/87	Wiktor			
	4,665,918	05/19/87	Garza et al.			
	4,733,665	04/29/88	Palmaz			
	4,739,762	05/26/88	Palmaz			
	4,760,849	08/02/88	Kropf			
	4,762,128	08/09/88	Rosenbluth			
	4,768,507	09/06/88	Fischell et al.			
	4,776,337	10/11/88	Palmaz			
	4,800,882	01/31/89	Gianturco			
	4,856,516	08/15/89	Hillstead			
	4,886,062	12/12/89	Wiktor			
	4,893,623	01/16/90	Rosenbluth			
	4,907,336	03/13/90	Gianturco			
	4,913,141	04/03/90	Hillstead			
	4,922,905	05/08/90	Strecker			
	4,950,227	08/21/90	Savin et al.			
	4,954,126	09/04/90	Wallsten			
	4,969,458	11/13/90	Wiktor			
	5,019,085	05/28/91	Hillstead			



EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,019,090	05/28/91	Pinchuk			
	5,026,377	06/25/91	Burton et al.			
	5,041,126	08/20/91	Gianturco			
	5,061,275	10/29/91	Wallsten et al.			
	5,064,435	11/12/91	Porter			
	5,104,404	04/14/92	Wolff			
	5,133,732	07/28/92	Wiktor			
	5,135,536	08/04/92	Hillstead			
	5,139,480	08/18/92	Hickle et al.			
	5,147,370	03/15/92	McNamara et al.			
	5,160,341	11/03/92	Brenneman et al.			
	5,161,547	11/00/92	Tower			
	5,163,958	11/17/92	Pinchuk			
	5,176,625	01/05/93	Brisson			
	5,183,085	02/02/93	Timmermans			
	5,216,483	06/08/93	Tower			
	5,314,472	05/00/94	Fontaine			
	5,643,312	07/01/97	Fischell et al.			
	5,876,432	03/02/99	Lau et al.			
	5,879,370	03/09/99	Fischell et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	PCT/US93/00355	07/22/93	PCT				
	EPO 177 330 A3	04/09/86	EPO				
	EPO 282 175 A1	09/14/88	EPO				



OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication with applicant.